

Dr. Eshetu remembered for powerful, soft-spoken witness

STEPHEN PULS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Eshetu Abate Koyra, Professor of Theology, was called to be with the Lord on Dec. 28 after succumbing to a battle with cancer. Eshetu had been working at Concordia since 2002 as member of the Christ College faculty.



"We just lost a great friend, minister, a valued colleague, and a person who shined the light of Jesus in everything he did," said Dr. Mary Scott, Provost. Eshetu was best known on campus for his brotherly greetings, Christ-centered chapel messages, and his careful instruction as a Biblical scholar.

Mark Siegert, Director of Cross-Cultural Ministry, not only worked alongside Eshetu as an instructor at Concordia, but also took two classes from him while completing colloquy. "His passion for the work of the Church – the same passion which compelled him to serve in Ethiopia – compelled him to serve here in California," Siegert said. "He loved to teach, and he loved to proclaim the Gospel." Siegert spoke of how Eshetu was a role model who brought an uncommon perspective to the Concordia community. "Perhaps what struck me the most was his genuine concern for people," he said. "He was a hard-working servant, caring for people whether they were his students or people he met in the city."

Eshetu grew up in Ethiopia during an era of monumental change. He was raised the son of a school teacher and was finishing his secondary education at the end of Emperor Haile Selassie's 44-

year reign. Shortly after the Marxist Derg regime took control of the government in September of 1974, Eshetu declined a scholarship offer to study medicine in the Soviet Union to instead study theology in his home country.

Shortly after becoming the first Coordinator of Theological Education at Tabor Seminary in the capitol city of Addis Ababa, Eshetu came to America when Marxists overtook his theological institution. He did graduate work at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO before moving back to Ethiopia, where he worked to restore the Christian presence, as communists remained in charge of the region. Eshetu became an integral part of the Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, one of the

ler spoke of how humbled he was by the substance of Eshetu's faith. "He knew who he belonged to and was completely prepared to be with Jesus," he said. "It was humbling to be with someone whose faith was so pure, strong, and sincere."

Dr. Mike Middendorf, Professor of Theology, first met Eshetu while studying alongside him at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in the late 1970s. The tandem enjoyed a cross-cultural relationship over several decades, as Middendorf always attempted to pick up Ethiopian basics from Eshetu. He personally spoke of how they would say farewell using the Ethiopian term for "see you later." Middendorf emphasized that Eshetu's passing is not a goodbye, but rather a "see you later."

"Jack, I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

few ecclesiastical institutions which had not been closed down. He also worked closely with the Bible Society of Ethiopia, an organization that works to translate Scripture into Amharic—the Semitic script of Ethiopia.

In 2002, Eshetu left a post in which he shepherded 5,000,000 Lutheran Christians in Ethiopia to accept a call to Concordia. In addition to his teaching, Eshetu established two Mekane Yesus (the official Lutheran Church of Ethiopia) congregations—one in Los Angeles and the other in Long Beach. Membership of the two congregations currently totals over 50,000 people. He also recently worked diligently to reconcile relationships within the Mekane Yesus Church back in Africa, as conflict had been slowing the community down.

Eshetu extended his name after coming to America, as the Social Security registry requires that citizens have three names. Accordingly, he took on Abate, the name of his father, as his middle name, and Koyra, the name of his grandfather, as his last name.

Dr. Steven Mueller, Dean of Christ College, spoke of the many gifts that Eshetu brought to the department. "He was a faithful scholar and was devoted to his students," Mueller said. "He was kind and soft spoken, but had a powerful witness." Muel-

When Eshetu first moved into his home in California, Dr. Jack Schultz, Professor of Anthropology, joined a group of volunteers to assist him in the process. After fixing the hinges on his refrigerator door, Schultz stated that Eshetu quickly characterized him as a handyman. "Coming from Ethiopia he knew how to maintain an Ethiopian home, but he had little experience with American appliances and plumbing," Schultz said. "I'm actually not very good at home repair, but when he asked I did what I could hoping he wouldn't have to call a repairman." Over the following years, Schultz, Eshetu, and Dr. Rod Soper, Professor of Biology, worked on a number of projects together. "I still smile at the three of us pretending to know what we were doing," Schultz said.

Schultz characterized Eshetu as a man defined by his faith. He said, "Almost each discussion he contextualized into the Lord's will, and our Christian work." Upon visiting him in the hospital, Schultz saw that Eshetu was in great pain, but quickly became encouraged with words of eternal assurance. "He said to me, 'Jack, I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.'"

Concordia will be holding a memorial chapel service for Dr. Eshetu on Thurs. Feb. 2 at 10:30 a.m. in the CU Center.



Dr. Eshetu performs a baptism at the Mekane Yesus Church in Long Beach. Concordia will be holding a memorial chapel service on Thurs. Feb. 2 at 10:30 a.m.

"Dr. Abate was one of the most memorable people I have met. He was dearly loved by many of Concordia's students. I loved the way that we were all members of his family. My father went to seminary with him and even remembered him after 25 years. I will cherish the patience and love that he taught me for the rest of my life."

—Katherine Hokana, senior

"I liked the man a lot and expected to get to know him better. I assumed there would be plenty of time over our years together here. It will happen—I'll just have to wait a little longer. He will be missed, and Concordia is a lesser place without him."

—Dr. Jack Schultz

"Dr. Abate was one of the best professors I have ever had. He always greeted me with a 'My brother Cameron' and a smile. To this day I don't think I ever saw that man without a smile. Much of what I know today I learned through him and experiences in his class. Rest in Peace Dr. Abate."

—Cameron Pullman, alumnus

"Professor Abate was a scholar and teacher whose commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is an example for us all. In his own soft-spoken, earnest way he lived out the Gospel in his interaction with Concordia students, faculty and staff."

—President Kurt Krueger

"I will miss his warm handshake and gentle greeting, 'How are you today my dear sister Christine?' He was the most Christ-like man I've known; humble, gentle, kind, quick to pray for a need, and also never afraid to speak the Word of God boldly and deal with conflict when needed. While we mourn, there is no doubt that he rejoices to be in the presence of his Lord."

—Dr. Christine Ross

*For all the saints, who
from their labors rest,*

*Who thee by faith before
the world confessed,*

*Thy name, O Jesus, be
forever blest.*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Editorial

Why I study the humanities

ZACHARY BORST
ARTS EDITOR

I was unable to take the Core. I took general education courses that were not intended for me to make the same connections that the Core students are making in their paired classes. I have, however, learned some things from studying the humanities. I am an English major with minors in History and Classical Languages (i.e. Greek and Latin). For some who are at Concordia to “make money,” they may wonder why I studied dead languages and literature, and also why they are subjected to the humanities in the Core.

In J.M. Coetzee’s novel “Elizabeth Costello,” the title character goes to a graduation ceremony that honors her sister, Blanche, with an honorary doctorate. Elizabeth Costello is a novelist; Blanche is a nun and missionary.

In her fifteen-minute acceptance speech, Blanche criticizes the academy for its waywardness: “The message I bring is that you lost your way long ago, perhaps as long as five centuries ago.” She orates that by studying the humanities university scholars left the study of divinity and welcomed in Enlightenment values. I don’t believe that mankind has lost its way because of the humanities as Blanche argues. Instead, it seems that students coming to university have a general disregard for the humanities, asking: What is their use? What is the function of an English major? Certainly not to make money? It is this shift that is undesirable—the cash value of the BA.

Every Concordia sophomore has now read the opening lines to Homer’s “Iliad.” Book I opens with

the poet invoking the muses so he can properly tell his readers the story of the Trojan War: “Rage: Sing, Goddess, Achilles’ rage, black and murderous, that cost the Greeks incalculable pain.” As I read “The Iliad,” these lines seem to resound throughout the whole epic. Achilles is wracked with rage against Agamemnon for taking his plunder from war—the lovely Briseis—yet that is only the beginning of Achilles’ rage.

Towards the end of the poem, the reader realizes that the anger the poet alludes to at the beginning of “The Iliad” is not about Achilles’ feud with Agamemnon, but his intense hatred for Hector. Achilles kills Hector in a battle outside the walls of Troy and disrespects his body. Hector was a fierce opponent and begged Achilles to give his body to his parents, but Achilles’ rage overshadows the respect he may have showed Hector before his beloved Patroclus’ death: “But it was shame and defilement Achilles had in mind for Hector. He pierced the tendons above the heels and cinched them with leather thongs to his chariot, letting Hector’s head drag.”

Just weeks after the YouTube video of US forces urinating on Taliban bodies surfaced on the Internet, Homer’s 8th-century B.C.E. poem seems spot-on with its judgment on war’s atrocities. Even the gods—who favored Achilles—found his act morally wrong and interceded by protecting Hector’s body from the elements. The human problem of war is very much alive in the ancient literary text of “The Iliad,” and studying the poem remains valid and useful in the 21st-century.

Since the inception of Plato’s Academy and Aristotle’s Lyceum, students have been studying

philosophy and rhetoric (i.e. critical thinking and literature). As we learn in Plato’s “Apology,” Socrates created a philosophical method and inspired the philosophers who followed him, yet he didn’t charge for money. In other words, he privileged educating the youth of Athens over his 401K. If learning about the humanities did not interest me, then taking on student loans would be a waste of my time and money. I went to college to learn and read as much as I can, and I doubt that with a Concordia BA alone I will become “wise, honorable and cultivated.” The desire to learn and join the conversation, which was instilled by my Concordia professors, has cultivated me. A degree alone cannot cultivate. The attitude that I find in some of my peers who simply want to clock in for four years and then make money seems counter-intuitive to what I have been learning here and what Concordia stands for as a liberal arts university.

On May 5, I will be scratching at the beginnings of human knowledge that academics, politicians, teachers, businessmen and religious leaders have all grappled with and studied. My education will have only just begun. Yet there is something that has made me richer in the last four years of college that I did not have in high school: the rigor and accomplishment intrinsic to finishing a van Voorhis reading course; the productivity and man hours put into a research paper for the President’s Showcase; the understanding of prepositions, tenses and moods by reading in another language with Dr. Brighton and Professor Armstrong... Studying the humanities has enriched me by altering my perceptions and engaging me in critical thinking, student loans included.



Romney is currently facing pressure from the public to release copies of tax returns.



Gingrich took hold of momentum with blunt statements in the South Carolina debates.



Santorum found he was the actual winner of the Iowa caucus last week.



While Paul’s economic plan has been embraced by several Republican voters, his ideas surrounding foreign policy remain a major concern.

GOP Primary Update

JOSEPH LAUGHON
STAFF WRITER

Finally, the end is here—not the end of election, that is. That sadly (or happily, however you look at it) will continue for several more months. However, the “end of the beginning,” as Sir Winston Churchill once put it, in the GOP election is finally here. The days of “will-he, won’t-he” have finally passed. The Republican Party has gone through plenty of temporary infatuations since the summer, but now the field has winnowed out to four main candidates.

First, the GOP was wondering if former Alaska governor and vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin would enter the race. To the surprise of many, she declined and instead maintained her position as a Tea Party kingmaker. Second, former US ambassador to China and governor of Utah, Jon Huntsman, also gain initial waves. However, despite his credentials and moderate appeal, he could not survive after a last stand, third place finish in New Hampshire.

Most famously, former businessman Herman Cain, one of the first African-Americans to run in the Republican primaries, began his campaign with a bang only to crumble among rumors of serial sexual misconduct. Numerous other candidates—from Tea Party darlings such as Michelle Bachmann, to Texas governor Rick Perry—also burned out after months of campaigning. After the Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary, only four major candidates remain in the field. The eventual winner of the Iowa caucuses, Senator Rick Santorum, first stood out with his intensely conservative social message, with a special focus on homosexuality in society. Poll leader, Governor Mitt Romney handily won in moderate New Hampshire (his own state) with his focus on executive and business experience.

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich then came back from the dead to win in South Carolina last Saturday. Gingrich, long the target of social conservatives, is hoping that his debating ability and policy wonkiness can turn out a victory going into Florida and Super Tuesday.

The last candidate, Texas congressman Ron Paul, has yet to win, but has taken numerous second place finishes while maintaining a devoted internet following. Paul’s appeal comes from his focus on the constitution, civil liberties, and isolationist politics.

After having three different winners through three contests, only Florida remains until the vaunted “Super Tuesday”, and 41% of all GOP delegates will be up from grabs in March. The polls are still in Romney’s favor by 8 points with Gingrich in second and Paul in third.

Of course, the general election still looms ahead. President Obama, despite the primary losses in 2010 and the slogging economy, still maintains victories in the polls against all GOP candidates except for Romney. So while the field has certainly narrowed, it is by no means over, both on the Republican and national front.

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Forensics sweetens flavor of SLC tourney

MARIA BASTATCH
STAFF WRITER

Over Christmas break, the Concordia Forensics team won a debate tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah. The 2012 Great Salt Lake Invitational-Long Beach Classic Swing has two tournaments over the course of three days, hence both schools hosting and the term “swing.” It is a competitive tournament which attracts teams throughout the country. Teams that competed in the tournaments included UCLA, UCI, Pepperdine, Southern Illinois University, Texas Tech and others.

In every portion of the tournament Concordia placed competitors in the elimination round of each event—Parliamentary Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and individual speech. In the

Parliamentary, or pairs, Debate, Stirling McKenzie and Robert Maxwell reached the semi-final round. Nicolas Townes and George Talavera also made it to the semi-final round in the second half of the tournament for the same event. Concordia placed six finalists in the Lincoln Douglas Debate, a one-on-one event.

Maxwell, Townes, Jason Lyle, David Saulet, Zach Moss and Will Prier, team captain, all succeeded in making it to the final round of this part of the competition. Prier was the top seed (the highest-ranked debater) at the tournament. Concordia Forensics had great success in the individual speech events.

In the first half of the tournament, Joe Laughon won Impromptu and Extemporaneous, while also taking third place in Speech to Entertain. Brianna

Lamanna took the fourth place Speech to Entertain spot, while Amanda Ozaki placed second in Persuasion. Allison Bowman placed third in Persuasion and second in Speech to Entertain. Chase Harrington and Jonathan Veal also placed in Extemporaneous Speaking. In the second half of the tournament, Bowman won the Speech to Entertain event, took second in Informative Speech, and placed fourth in Persuasion. Lamanna took second in Speech to Entertain and placed in Impromptu and Extemporaneous. These results enabled the forensics team to win both tournaments for overall points.

The team also participated in the Concordia Free, a fees-free tournament hosted by the university as an act of goodwill toward the forensics community, last weekend.



MICHELLE LEE
ASCUI
VICE PRESIDENT

For those of you who are unaware or don't know a lot about what Senate is, let me first take the time to share with you what it is that your Student Senators work hard for. As stated in the Associated Students of Concordia University Irvine (ASCUI) Senate Mission Statement, “ASCUI Senate is the primary voice of students in policy-making activities.” Senators are student representatives voted into office by students to serve as a communication link between all students, student leadership, and faculty and staff. Senate meets once a week to discuss various issues that our campus is facing.

A minor issue Senate has been working on has been the littering problem in Upper and Lower Quads. Some of the more serious issues have included working with Campus Safety to explore various options regarding parking problems, and addressing the New Alcohol Policy so that students are properly informed of important changes being made. Your Senators have worked tirelessly all semester to have your voices heard about the troubles with parking, as well as your opinions regarding the New Alcohol Policy. Potential solutions to address the parking issue on campus include the installation of a point system, though nothing has been decided as we are still in the process of researching what will work best for our campus. We have also been working closely with students, faculty, and staff, as well as higher administration, regarding the New Alcohol Policy. Our department has drafted several research letters addressing how the New Policy could judicially, theologically, financially and legally impact Concordia. Once we have finished compiling these letters, Emily Goins, ASCUI President, will be presenting them to the Executive Council.

While Senate tends to focus mostly on the more serious problems students and the campus may be faced with, we also participate in fun campus events such as Concordia Christmas, the upcoming ASCUI Executive Board and Senate Elections, the 5K Eagle Run and Capture the Flag. ASCUI elections for both Executive Board and Senate will be taking place on Feb. 10. Those interested in being a part of any branch of ASCUI for the 2012-2013 academic year are highly encouraged to pick up an application beginning Mon. Jan. 23. Applications will be located in the ASCUI office in the Center for Student Leadership & Development (CSLD) or online on the ASCUI page of the Concordia website.

Currently, Senate meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon from 3:10-4 p.m. in Student Union 201 and are open to all students. If you have a problem, concern or issue you'd like to see addressed, we encourage you to have your voice heard. Students are also always welcome to stop by the ASCUI office or email any current senator or a member of the ASCUI Executive Board with input.

We are here to serve you, the students of Concordia University Irvine, and want to hear what you have to say.

Blessings on behalf of the ASCUI Executive Board 2011-2012,

Michelle Lee
ASCUI Vice President

Student Affairs Shuffle: Fugitt and Lum embrace new roles

ELYSSA SULLIVAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Due to the departure of Dr. Michelle Reinken and Kimberly Chamberlain, two members of the Concordia Student Affairs staff, the structure of the department has taken on a new look.

Dr. Gilbert Fugitt, Associate Dean of Students, will now be overseeing Residential Life (Res). Monica Lum, Associate Dean of Students, will now oversee the departments of LEAD and ASCUI, while continuing her work in supervising the Office of First Year Experience (FYE).

Dr. Gary McDaniel, Executive Vice President and Chief Enrollment Officer, is extremely supportive of this change. McDaniel highlighted Fugitt as someone with a great heart and an individual who understands the Gospel—both essential aspects of success in a Res position. Furthermore, McDaniel praised Lum for her dedication to the programs and leaders she oversees and cannot wait to see what she does with her new position. Both Fugitt and Lum are excited for their new positions and responsibilities as well.

Fugitt emphasized that though it was exceedingly difficult for him to end his supervisory position with LEAD and ASCUI, he is thrilled with the opportunities ahead of him. He highlighted the new programs Res will be taking initiative on, especially working closer with Abbeywest in providing ministry to students. He hopes to see a deeper spiritual growth for residential students through these programs. Details are still to be decided, but Fugitt is clearly excited for their potential.

Fugitt invites any member of the student body to visit him. “My door is always open—unless it's closed,” he said. His office is located upstairs in Sigma Square. He encourages all students to stop by whenever they feel like it, introduce themselves,

and have a conversation about anything. He wants to know what residential students have to say about current programming and what Res can do to make it better. He encourages students to come in and be honest with him about their Res experience. His goal is to build a stronger bond between Res and the student, and the only way for that to happen is for students to stop by and share their thoughts.

Lum is blessed to be able to remain with her former office, FYE, while also moving into a position that will give her more opportunities to work one-on-one with students. When Kristy Fowler, Director of FYE, took her position in the summer of last year, Lum took on a more managerial position. With this change, Lum is thrilled to once again play an active role in guiding student leader programming and development. She takes joy in being able to walk alongside student leaders, hear their ideas, and provide them with different perspectives to make their programs the best they can be. Because this is her first time working in a programming position, she looks to the work of her predecessor, Fugitt, and strives to add what she can to the program through relational ministries with student leaders.

Derek Vergara, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Assistant to the President on Campus Diversity Issues, stated that Concordia students deserve to have full-time Student Affairs staff dedicated to their holistic development as students. Vergara emphasized that as student leaders benefit from dedicated supervisors, the Concordia student body will benefit from their bettered outreach. Three new positions are opening up in the Student Affairs Department: Dean of Students, Director of Residential Education, and Director of Student Leadership and Development. These positions are being adjusted and will hopefully be filled within the next year.

Concert orchestrates the old west

SARINA GRANT
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Wind Orchestra will play a Wild West-themed performance for the annual Pops Concert.

The concert is designed to be more upbeat and fun than the orchestra's other concerts. Oriented for families and college students alike, the musicians plan to entertain a wide variety of audience members. After the musical performance, games and other activities will be available for those who wish to participate.

“It's an extremely casual, fun experience. The audience gets engaged in the performance too,” said Marissa Carnahan, sophomore and Music Department Assistant. “It's a nice opportunity for families to get together and enjoy themselves. It's fun for everyone.”

“The idea of it is cool. It's not going to be just a traditional sit down concert,” said Rachel Beyer, junior.

The exact details of the performance will remain unknown until its debut on Jan. 28. “I have no idea what the concert is going to be like this year,” said Sarah Barrick, sophomore trumpet player. “Even if I did know, I probably shouldn't tell you because that ruins half the fun. You have to come and see the excitement for yourself.”

“I look forward to the Pops concert. It was really fun last year,” said Rafael Ramos, sophomore saxophone player. “It's definitely a nice change from our usual, more traditional repertoire.”

Last year's pops concert featured a circus theme, and the theater department was enlisted to help. Acting as animals, a ringmaster, and other circus characters, they were able to work with the Concordia Wind Orchestra to create a memorable event.

“Professor Held always seems to have ideas to make our performances over the top, Barrick said. “It will be interesting to see what he comes up with for this year.”

“I really encourage everyone to come, said Carnahan. “It's a great performance that everyone will enjoy.”

The concert will be performed in the CU Center on Saturday at 4 p.m. Tickets are free for students and faculty.



Fugitt and Lum pose with Marty Eagle.



Battalion and Beloved remain open to students

Battalion and Beloved groups will continue to be an integral part of Abbeywest's campus ministry this spring at Concordia. Battalion and Beloved have been solidified as rooted ministries for small groups. Battalion is a small group Bible study ministry for men, while Beloved is the same for women. The small group setting is a very beneficial way for both men and women to seek intimacy with God through the study of Scripture, while simultaneously being a part of an edifying body of fellowship. Through these groups, men and women get the opportunity to come together with other believers in Christ, building a community of trust and growth. When a Battalion or Beloved group meets, they are actively living out the mission of Abbeywest—to “make disciples of a new generation.”

In addition to the individual groups meeting regularly, many exciting group events will also be

taking place this semester. On Feb. 8, Battalion and Beloved will be hosting a joint event focusing on sex and relationships. The event will be hosted in the Rho Programming Center from 7 to 9 p.m. and will include a panel to answer questions. This panel will be eclectic, including Dr. Patti Brunold, a psychologist, Pastor Mark Manning and his wife Heather, as well as Jonathan Ruehs, Residential Coordinator of Spiritual Life. The Church has always faced a challenge when dealing with the topic of sex. The hope is that this event will answer questions and spark healthy conversation about how to approach sex from a Godly perspective.

If you would like to join a Battalion group, feel free to contact myself, Aaron Bird, at aaron.bird@eagles.cui.edu. All interested Beloved ladies can contact Beth James at elizabeth.james@eagles.cui.edu.

ALICIA HARGER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

“Keep calm and cruise on,” read the signs around campus advertising the Old Hollywood-themed homecoming dance. On Fri. Jan. 27, students will board the Eternity Yacht for a night of dancing, fun, and cruising. LEAD Student Activities coordinators Audrey Biesk, sophomore, Johanna Saleska, senior, and Amber Arandas, sophomore, planned the event.

The boat boards at 6:30 p.m., departs at 7 p.m. and cruises Newport Harbor during the dance, before finally docking at 11 p.m. Tickets are sold out. A bus will be provided to transport students from campus to the harbor leaving at 5:45 pm.

Homecoming brings Old Hollywood to Newport

“I'm really excited to see all of our time and hard work come together and to have fun on the yacht,” said Biesk, who put a lot of effort into making this dance something she thought the Concordia community would enjoy. One of the biggest draws to the dance is the location.

Even if someone is not a big dancer, they are bound to have fun taking advantage of the food, just being on the ship, or simply taking in the sights of the harbor.

The buzz around campus has been building up the event. Lauren Norris, freshman, said, “I love the ocean and boats, and I like dancing, so I'm sure this will be fun. Plus, most of my friends are going.” The dance promises to be a well-attended night of fun.

The Cult of Tebow: The Silver and Black take

ERIK OLSEN
STAFF WRITER

I've been trying to write this column for two weeks, and I've got absolutely nothing going. Until now. I knew I wanted to tackle the Tebow conundrum, but I couldn't find a balance between spewing venom and discussing things rationally. It's a touchy subject. Everyone and their mom has an opinion on Tebow. You either love him or you hate him. There is no in-between. He's the single-most polarizing athlete I have ever witnessed in my time as a sports fan. I think it's safe to say that not even Kobe Bryant stirs up the type of reaction that Tebow does.

For as long as it took me to write this thing, it took even longer to realize that my issue was never actually with Tebow. Sure, as a Raider fan, I am absolutely allowed to despise any member of the rival Denver Broncos. And I do. Each and every one of 'em. Tebow included. But my beef isn't with him. Truth be told, I actually liked him a lot when he was in college, and I was even kind of hoping he'd end up in Oakland at one point. Of course, that's no longer the case. But my point is that I didn't always feel negatively about him.

I consider myself to be a genuine—even somewhat knowledgeable—football fan. I'm fiercely loyal to my Raiders and Giants, and I spend countless hours reading football blogs and watching games. Quite frankly, I'm obsessed. I. Love. Football. That's why it pains me so much to witness the Tebow craze. From what I've seen, the majority of Tebow's fans are shameless bandwagoners.

I'm not saying they're all like this, but it just seems that many of them don't know anything about football. Yet, they think Tebow is God's gift to the sport, completely failing to realize that he's little more than a glorified running back who occasionally throws... poorly. But what really upsets me is the zealotry these people exhibit, elevating this man to near God-like levels. It really is like a cult.

These people seem to believe that Tebow is some type of deity, whose short-lived miracle run was fueled from on high. One Yahoo! poster even



Tebow "Tebows"

wrote that, "You can't beat Jesus' Own!" The level of ignorance in that statement sickens and embarrasses me, as a Christian. Seriously, if that's the case, how do you explain the three-game losing streak Denver had at the end of the season? Or the massacre they just suffered at the hands of New England? Did Tebow have an impure thought? Did he do something to lose favor with God? I highly doubt it.

Newsflash: Every single person in the NFL is "Jesus' Own." Even the ones who play for the Chargers and Cowboys, as hard as that is for me to write. Jesus loves 'em all. The truth is, the Broncos lost those games because they're just not a very good team. They've got a nice defense, but if you can score more than two TDs on them, chances are

you're gonna win.

Look, I respect people liking Tebow because he's a Christian. I really do. Personally, Victor Cruz became my new favorite Giant this season, not just due to his on-field awesomeness, but also because he's vocal about his beliefs, and he does so in a way that feels genuine. He's got a great story, and he's a really special player. The fact that he plays for the Giants is merely icing on the cake.

I just want you Tebow Heads to keep things in perspective. Tebow is not the only Christian in the League. Tebow is not God. Tebow is not a nephew of God. He's probably not even a second-cousin of God. He's a servant. Just like the rest of us. Glorify the faith. Glorify the God. But, please, never forget that Tebow is just a man who plays a child's game.

Athletic events highlight Homecoming week agenda

EMILY GESKE
SPORTS EDITOR

It's that time of year again, where many athletes on campus get to showcase their talent as groups of students flock to watch sporting events. Homecoming week, January 23-29, features several big-games. Though there are other fun events planned throughout the week featuring an Old Hollywood theme, some of the main highlights require a little patience as Saturday looms.

The weekend is packed full of games featuring current sports teams, as well as groups of athletics alumni. The weekend festivities begin with a swim meet against Biola. Alumni soccer games will also take place that morning. The women play at 10 a.m., and the men take the field at noon. Baseball and softball also have alumni games on Saturday, both of which will be at noon on their respective fields.

A significant Concordia homecoming tradition involves the induction of new members into the Athletics Hall of Fame, and the presentation of other prestigious awards.

This year, Mic Shackelford, '90, MAEd '99, is receiving the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award, and the Distinguished Service Award is being given to Tuma Johnson, '01.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame include: Kyle Carroll, '04, for his performance in men's soccer, Tanner Luster, '05, and Chris Victor, '04, for men's basketball, and Kori Pryzgocki Huibregtse, '03, in softball. Both Luster and Victor were members of the 2003 NAIA National Champion Men's Basketball team during Ken Ammann's second season at Concordia.

Saturday will conclude with the Homecoming basketball games against Fresno Pacific. The women's game will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the men will follow at 7:30 p.m. This is not the last event of the weekend, however, as Sunday features a double-header when the baseball team begins its defense of a national title against Arizona Christian, beginning at 10 a.m.

Students are encouraged to come out and support as many of these events as possible. This weekend has numerous engaging activities planned—take part in one of Concordia's greatest traditions.



Victor, right, played and coached at Concordia before taking a job at Citrus College.

Just Scream



JOSH CANTER
GUEST WRITER

I get this question a lot, and most of the time I jokingly respond: we give away free stuff. We, the Screaming Eagles team—made up of Alex Flores, Josh Canter, and Dakota Anderson—are known throughout the campus for giving away items including iPads, TVs, and gift cards. We even give something free to every new student (hint: a t-shirt). We are also known for Midnight Madness, the annual event to kick-off basketball season. During this event, we essentially give out free stuff the entire time.

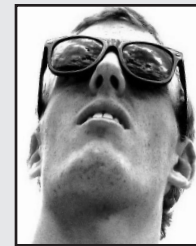
We are more than that, however. The Screaming Eagles team members are diehard Concordia Athletics fans. We support every sport endlessly, and are dedicated to supporting the Athletics Department. We spend sleepless nights making posters and coming up with ideas to get crowds to the games. We are a support system for the athletes. Every week, we pick a showcase Game of the Week and promote it to the students. We began the year with a kick-off pep rally for Volleyball season, and we will end the year with a bonfire to celebrate softball and baseball.

This year, we strive to do more. We came in with three goals: First, to pack the event. We want record amounts of people at all events and we want every student to know it's game day. Secondly, we want the crowd to interact with the game as we recognize its importance in a close game. We not only want fans to attend games, but encourage endless cheering and yelling. Lastly, we don't want to forget any sport. Every sport at Concordia deserves recognition. We want to promote all sports to all students.

My teammate Dakota Anderson came up with this summarizing motto: "We strive to pack the gym, crowd the field, and fill the bleachers at every sporting event. You are a Screaming Eagle. Get out there and scream!"

Be sure to make it to the Homecoming games this weekend.

SportsLine



Stephen Puls
Editor-in-Chief

Four Horsemen of the Sports Apocalypse

Well, it took me roughly three weeks to even realize that it's 2012, and will most likely take until at least early March until I stop writing 2011 on everything. Thankfully, this annual cycle of chronological frustration is going to end quite soon, as I too am joining the Mayans by officially predicting that the world will end at some point this year. A seemingly infinite number of failed predictions for judgment day have been documented, all of which were obviously proven false through time, over the history of civilization. Nonetheless, I suggest you pay close attention to this rather unique one—I'm placing a Namath guarantee behind it.

Unlike my predecessors, I have chosen to skew my study to current events within sports in order to avoid becoming blinded by the distractions of foreign affairs and political agendas. While I'm not prepared to declare a complete annihilation of mankind, sports in general are not long for this world—there are simply too many signs! What follows are my four premises of why a doomsday of the world's great pastimes looms closely.

1. Tom Brady is the "Sports Antichrist"

Unlike my partner on the left side of this page, I must admit that I am a Tebowlinial Dispensationalist. The polarizing run by Tim Tebow, which in reality was fueled by Matt Prater and two guys named Champ and Elvis, quickly met its end in Brady's lair of bitter Foxboro. I can see why Tebow is lovable, but why is it so desirable to always root against Tom Brady? After all, he's an amazing competitor who makes guys named Woodhead and Gronkowski look really, really good. The guy just wins too much, and killing Tebow was about as evil as it gets.

2. Celtics Big 3 "Left Behind"

It's easy to jump to the lockout as rational for such a slow start, but frankly the Celts have avoided grueling spells of back-to-backs that other teams have been forced to endure so far. Perhaps Allen, Pierce and Garnett have been a part of some kind of "sports rapture?"

3. Westmont and Masters Rule the GSAC

In perhaps the strangest end times phenomenon of all, the Warriors and Mustangs have dug themselves out of the doldrums of conference mediocrity in men's basketball. Meanwhile APU finds itself losing to Hope International and Concordia has failed to summon any defensive intensity. These events cannot be classified as anything other than apocalyptic.

4. Paul and Pujols Head West

All credit to the Clippers for capitalizing off of David Stern's nonsense. They are without a doubt relevant again, and could easily make some kind of run in this obscure, abridged NBA season. The Angels can enjoy creating the "Big A(lbert)" as pitchers and catchers prepare to report, but I would not recommend getting too comfortable. Fans will break out their rally monkey keys on Opening Day, Pujols will answer with a home run, and just like that the entire sports world will sink into an eternal abyss. Quite frankly, after all of this, the end may come as a relief.

**Judgment Day:
April 6, 2012**

Blair summons inner puppet in "Avenue Q"



"Avenue Q" will run through Feb. 25

ZACHARY BORST
ARTS EDITOR

Concordia's Spencer Blair, senior, is starring in a lead-role in an off-campus production of "Avenue Q." The musical was originally shown off-Broadway in 2003 and has won numerous Tony awards. "Avenue Q" is best known for its quirky characters, adult humor and puppets. Blair plays Rod. "Spencer's performance as Rod, the uptight closeted gay Republican investment banker, is definitely winning the heart of the audiences.

He's found humor and reality in Rod's dilemmas and brings them to the forefront of his performance," said David Carnevale, "Avenue Q" producer and Theatre Out co-founder.

The cast of "Avenue Q" is made up of ten players, all of whom use puppets. They have been rehearsing since October. "I have never touched a puppet in my life. I used to be terrified of puppets," Blair said. The actors are not concealed, however.

The characters are portrayed by the puppets, but the actors also can express their characters through their own faces.

"I felt restricted when I couldn't use my face, but using me and the puppet opened it up," Blair said.

"Avenue Q" is directed by Shaun McNamara, the founder of All Puppet Players. Prior to putting on this musical, McNamara wrote and directed two original shows—both of which featured puppets—"Hamlet Has No Legs" and "Frankenstein Has No Legs." "Shaun McNamara began speaking about 'Avenue Q' several years ago and felt like it was the perfect show to show off both companies' strengths," Carnevale said.

Blair first met McNamara at the Maverick Theatre, where he performs for Improv Shmimprov. McNamara's interests in puppetry and theater began as a child, culminating in his founding of All Puppet Players. "Our mission now is to create fun and exciting theater that you cannot get anywhere else. Our puppets are, at times, off the wall, ridiculous, foul-mouthed, and hopefully poignant," McNamara wrote on the group's website. All Puppet Players' goal to produce eccentric, puppet-theater made "Avenue Q" a good choice for their theater season.

The Santa Ana production of "Avenue Q" is housed in the intimate, 58-seat Empire Theatre. The musical aims to be comical with its use of puppets, but the space provides some soberness in the show too. "Puppets provide a great contrast between happy and serious moments. The characters encounter really serious situations," Blair said.

Blair's favorite moment in the show is the final song "For Now." It serves as a call to action as the characters in the play embrace their mortality and search for meaning in their life.

"Avenue Q" is a great play for college students. It does feature adult situations and language, but its main character, Princeton, is a recent college graduate who encounters life after school for the first time. The All Puppet Players and Theatre Out opened their rendition of "Avenue Q" on Jan. 13 and it will be running through Feb. 25 at the Empire Theatre in Santa Ana every Friday and Saturday night, beginning at 8 p.m.

For more information and tickets, visit allpuppetplayers.com or theatreout.com



Blair, back left, with the rest of the "Avenue Q" cast.

Theatre Dept earns third invite to ACTF

TAYLOR BUNDY
STAFF WRITER

The Cover of Life, a fall production of Concordia's theater department, will be traveling to Weber State University in Ogden, UT Feb. 7-11 to participate in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (ACTF).

The play deals with the struggles of war as characters' roles in life are challenged. Although it is set in the 1940's, it is surprisingly relevant to today. Lori Siekmann, Director, is excited to continue working with the students who were a part of this play. "The cool thing is the actors are a lot more relaxed this time around. They know that people loved their performances," said Siekmann. "They know they can do it, so because of this their characters are able to shine through."

Siekmann and the whole cast feel honored to participate in this festival once again, after Concordia received nominations in 2004 for "Medea," and in 2010 for "The Foolish Proposal." "There is no more pressure of the first time. We're not changing anything, but only going deeper," Siekmann said. She stated that she enjoys the challenge of participating in ACTF and the opportunity to improve overall performance and delivery of the play.

Concordia is part of Region 8, which consists of 159 schools in Arizona, Central & Southern California, Hawaii, Southern Nevada and Utah. "The Cover of Life" was selected along with 10 other shows out of the Southwest region. "It's such a crazy honor," said nominee Nicole Salimbeni, sophomore. "I try to compare it to the baseball team going to nationals. It's that big for us. We're competing against number one theater schools in our region like Cal State Fullerton or Weber State University." Salimbeni plays the character of Tood Cliffert in the play.

A large part of the theater department would have been going to the festival anyway, as actors received individual nominations for their work in the "Cover of Life," "The Importance of Being Earnest," and "The Arsonists." Several actors had already received nominations for their previous performances before Concordia found out in December that the entire production of "The Cover of Life" had been nominated.

This will be the play's final opportunity for competition as budget cuts have prevented entire productions to be able to travel to a national tournament, an event usually held in Washington DC. On the other hand, individual actors will still be given an opportunity to continue on a national stage.

The results of the festival will be announced in March.



Artist Spotlight

Brittany Amsler

Taking a Risk

I used to wake up to the sounds of James Brown. That's right. My dad would blast the Godfather of Soul through the speakers as a wake-up call some mornings. We could have set an alarm clock, sure, but I preferred James Brown.

As a drummer, my dad always made sure music was a part of the household. He told us no matter what instrument we wanted to play, we had to know how to read both treble and bass clefs first. So, we all learned how to play the piano. After years of practice, I studied piano at the Orange County High School of the Arts. But I soon found I just wasn't interested in the technical aspect of music. I liked to compose my own music by ear. I also discovered I liked to tell my own stories through performance. I switched to the Drama Conservatory for the remainder of my education at OCHSA.

It wasn't until college, when I added words to my instrumental compositions, that my true passion unearthed itself: songwriting. I finished my first song here at Concordia and I continued to sing and write as a hobby, playing in front of my friends, family and peers. It surprised me when people would tell me that I should pursue songwriting as a career. I loved it, but it just didn't seem logical. I didn't want to starve for a living, so I prayed about it. I asked God to take the reins and then I listened.

Prayer is an interesting thing. Before, I had prayed for comfort and an easy time in the future, but it wasn't until I started praying for God's will, that I felt doors were opening. The scary part was that I was being nudged in a direction in which I felt completely unprepared. I knew from the beginning this dream was far out of my reach and that I couldn't do it alone. At this point, I had to choose to either ignore the desires that had been planted in my heart, or rely on God completely. So I threw my hands up in the air and said, "Hey, what better time is there to pursue something I love, and risk starvation?"

Now, instead of waking up to the sounds of James Brown, I wake up with song ideas in my head that are begging to come to life. For my senior project, as a Humanities Major, I've given eleven of my original songs just that—life. My debut album, *When Daisies Bloom*, has been a labor of love this past semester, but I'm so excited to share it with you now. It will be available at my senior concert in the CU Center on Sun. Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. To preview songs, read my story or watch my music videos, visit brittanymusic.com.

Spencer spearheads family-friendly "Princess and the Pea"

AUDREY BIESK
STAFF WRITER

The Theatre Department is presenting "The Princess and the Pea" Feb. 2-4 in the Black Box Theatre. Sarah Spenker, senior, is directing the full-length play as a part of the theatre showcase for senior students in the theatre program. Spenker has been involved in theatre at Concordia for four years and this is her first time ever directing a play.

"It is cool to go from a scared freshman to being able to help others show their potential and teach them," Spenker said. "The Princess and the Pea" is a children's show with 11 people in the production and has four leading characters—the king, prince, princess and the old queen.

Andy Zanca, junior, is playing the king in his first full-length show. "The King is a dorkier version of me if that is even possible, so I get to play me to the tenth power. Hopefully the world will be able to handle it," said Zanca. "Though I am essentially playing a more exaggerated version of myself, there are still quirks unique to the King that I have had to discover through much trial and error, but I have made a lot of progress and I look forward to showing everyone during the first weekend of February."

Sean Derbyshire, sophomore, is the prince, Alexandra Dominquez, freshman, is playing the role of the princess and Katie Foggiano, freshman,

plays the old queen.

The main focus of the play follows the prince on a journey to find the perfect bride. Each candidate has to pass a test in order to be a true princess.

"It is a really fun, silly, charming, fairy-tale story," said Spenker. "It's like going to a live Disney play." The Theatre Department hopes to incorporate a children's show into every season so people from the community can bring their kids to see a Concordia theater production. "The Princess and the Pea" will be playing Feb. 2-3 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are free for students, faculty and staff and can be reserved online.

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Staff and students serve together in summer trips

The missions team from Abbeywest has collaborated with the Office of Global Programs to provide a plethora of options for students looking to get out of the country this summer. There are currently eight trips scheduled, some of which are still accepting students expressing a desire to make a difference abroad.

If you are interested in going on a mission-service trip this summer, the Office of Global Programs is still accepting applications with the exception of the East Africa and Hungary trips. The deadline for the remainder of the trips is Jan. 31, so do not hesitate to contact any of the trip leaders for more information.

Great Commission T-Shirt Sale \$12.95 in CU Bookstore

Proceeds Benefit Around-the-World Scholarship Program

S-XXL available



Vietnam

Dr. Christine Ross and Professor Christopher Nagel are leading this two-week mission-service trip. It will take place from May 6-20 during which time the travelers will get to support the Lutheran Church in Vietnam, witness about their own faith, and learn from the Vietnamese culture. The trip costs a total of \$3000, but that covers all expenses associated with flying, tutoring university students in English, teaching Vacation Bible School (VBS), and touring some of Vietnam's more popular destinations.

Hungary

Pastor Stephen Borst is in charge of this three-week long trip to one of the European countries that has a significant Lutheran presence. The team will embark on June 20 and return home on July 10 for an excursion that costs \$2900. The main objectives for this journey are to lead VBS for the Hungarian children and to help the people there learn

English by practicing with native speakers. Ben Helge, graduate student, and Pastor Quinton Anderson also have information regarding this trip.

Haiti

From May 17 until May 31, a group of students led by Pastor S.T. Williams will be working diligently in Haiti to help rebuild homes that were destroyed due to natural disasters. The two-week project will also involve teaching VBS to some of the local children and will only cost \$2500. Pastor Quinton Anderson has information about this trip as well.

East Africa

Professor Adam Lee and a group of students will be setting off for Kenya and Zambia this summer for a two-month long project beginning May 8 and finishing up July 4. They will be working with the group FIKISHA in Kenya, as well as working with Concordia alumnus Kristen Turner on her

projects in Zambia with the Peace Corps.

China

For six weeks from mid June until the end of July, Professor Jennifer Cosgrove will be leading a group of eight to sixteen graduating students on a trip to China. The main purpose of the journey will be to teach English to the Chinese people. The fees for this trip are covered, and all participants will receive an \$800 stipend as well. Professor Tony Vezner will also be leading a three-week trip later in the summer.

Costa Rica

Quads A.D. Larry Rice and sophomore David Garcia have put together this trip for ten students interested in working with two different non-governmental organizations. Participants will be working with "Boy with a Ball" as well as Roble Alto Youth Shelter for two weeks from May 7 to May 21. The trip costs \$1300 and provides a great

opportunity to make a positive difference. Pura vida!

South Korea

Lonnie Lee is the contact for anyone interested in teaching English and VBS in South Korea this summer. A group of eight to ten students will be spending two weeks—May 15-29—in the country sharing their knowledge and serving as witnesses. Any students of sophomore to senior status are eligible to go at an estimated price of \$1500.

West Africa

Eight to twelve CUI students will be spending two weeks in Ghana this May with Dr. Dan Waite. The trip will take place from May 15-27 at the price of \$2650. The group will be working with ABAN on Neglect and City of Refuge, organizations which focus on raising awareness about human trafficking.

Serve close to home too!

As the Abbeywest local missions coordinator, I want to help you help others. I love hearing new suggestions of different organizations to work with. If you, or someone you know has a connection with an organization or church in the Southern California area, please let me know. If you already have a place to serve but need help organizing, I can help with that too. Let me be a resource for you!

Blessings,
Mai Vu
Local Missions Coordinator 2011-2012
katherine.vu@eagles.cui.edu

Bethesda Lutheran Communities

This organization, "seeks to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ." Volunteers get the opportunity to interact with adults from different Bethesda homes in the South Orange County area.

Food Distribution at Christ Lutheran Costa Mesa

Partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank, Christ Costa Mesa Lutheran Church hosts a food distribution every second Saturday of the month. Families begin waiting at 5 a.m. with their kids to get a good spot in line. Up to 200 families can come through on a busy day. Concordia comes alongside this ministry to help out wherever we can.

Food Distribution at Trinity Cristo Rey

Every fourth Saturday of the month, Trinity Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank, distributes food to the local families and individuals in need. It is very similar to the food distribution at Christ Costa Mesa. Volunteers get to see and experience downtown Santa Ana, an area completely different from the clean streets of Irvine.

OC Rescue Mission

The OC Rescue Mission's purpose is to, "minister the love of Jesus Christ to the Least, the Last, and the Lost of our Community through the provision of assistance in the areas of guidance, counseling, education, job training, shelter, food, clothing, health care and independent living communities." It is a 1-2 year transitional ministry center and volunteers will serve people of all ages.

Civic Center, Santa Ana

The Civic Center in Santa Ana has been called Orange County's Skid Row. On any given weekend, more than 100 homeless men and women can be found in the small area. During the past three years, various student groups have gone to the area to serve and spend time with the men and women in need. The most important need we see and try to fill is that of quality time and conversation. It is an eye-opening experience seeing a need so close to home.

Concordia to host Mongolian students

EMILY GESKE'
SPORTS EDITOR

At the end of this month, a group of eight students from Mongolia will be visiting Concordia's campus for a few days. The students are coming from Mongolia International University (MIU), a college focused so much on being globally minded that all classes are conducted solely in English. One of the university's slogans is "educating tomorrow's global leaders."

The group arrives on Mon. Jan. 30, and will leave early on Thursday morning. While they are here, they will get the opportunity to attend classes and lectures from Concordia professors. Since MIU is also a Christian university, they will get to see if and how theology classes differ. These students will also get some exposure to what it's like to be immersed in a native English-speaking environment.

Concordia is not the only stop in America for these Mongolian travelers. They began their journey in Seattle. From there, they will make their way down the coast, stopping in San Francisco before arriving here. After they depart from Concordia, the group will head down to San Diego, and then

Las Vegas.

MIU and Concordia are interested in possibly outlining an exchange program, but the details are still being worked out. There will, however, be future contact between the two schools. Next semester, Mongolia will be the first stop for the Around the World II team, as MIU will be hosting Concordia students. While they are in Irvine, the Mongolian students will be staying with Concordia students. Seth Preuss, junior, will be a member of the Around-the-World semester next fall. He said, "It will be a good chance to build relationships with the people who will be hosting us when we go around the world and gives me the chance to return the favor."

Ellie Hanson, junior, is also looking forward to the experience. "It will be a great opportunity for ATW 2 students to prepare for the first country they will visit and get a glimpse of Mongolian culture," Hanson said.

This trip will be a great chance for Christians from another country to share fellowship with believers in a different culture. They can observe the way that God works in our lives here while strengthening the university's relationship with Concordia.

Counter Culture

JOSHUA YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

Way out in an underdeveloped section of Irvine sits a seemingly unimpressive burger joint, The Counter. The Counter, however, is the next best thing in the world of customizable burgers. If Burger King lets you “have it your way,” the counter unquestionably makes you the king (or queen) of your burger. The menu consists of three parts: a build your burger section, a signature burger section, and a starters section.

The signature burgers offer a couple specific choices including a Unique Veggie burger, Old School burger, and of course the Turkey Taco burger. These are great if you showed up to dinner knowing that you all you wanted was a taco burger made with turkey meat.

If, on the other hand, you show up to dinner either not knowing what you want or just feeling a bit like Dr. Frankenstein, then build a burger is for you. Boasting an impressive array of selections, you can pick from 12 different cheeses, 30 toppings, 21 types of sauce, and four unique buns (or a bowl). Not to mention five different patties in three sizes (1/3 pound, 1/2 pound, and 1 pound!) to choose from. With everything from fried pickle chips to black forest ham, the possibilities are basically limitless.

It actually is possible to build a burger so big that it will not fit into your mouth!

In addition to all of this, there is always a market selection burger offering unique combinations not available on the regular menu. If you find yourself in the mood to try something new and exciting (like lamb on a ciabatta bun with a fried salad and crème fraiche sauce) then the market selection is a great way to enliven your night.

Now you may be thinking this place has everything, but hang on to your shorts folks, as there’s much more. In addition to the great menu selection, The Counter’s beef is fresh, 100% natural Angus beef that is hormone and antibiotic free, all of which has been humanely raised and handled.

The prices are not cheap, but one could expect to pay a similar tab at The Counter as they would at a place like Red Robin—so nothing over the top. The only real drawback to trying to have dinner at The Counter is that there is almost always a wait to eat. So if you are in need of a quick, get-in and get-out type meal, this is not the place for you. But if you have the time, it’s certainly worth your dime!

To seal the deal, this burger joint has created a “Counter Culture” (pun intended) ambiance for their dining area. With cool urban artwork and some good music, the atmosphere makes for a great evening outing. The Counter gets a 5/5 and I suggest you check it out if you haven’t already.



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FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Summer Camp Fair@ 10:30am-1:30pm	2 Commuter Free Breakfast Burritos@7-9am The Princess and the Pea@ 7:30pm Shout@ 9:30pm	3 ASCUI Applications due@ 4:30pm The Princess and the Pea@ 7:30pm	4 The Princess and the Pea@ 2:00pm&7:30pm Santa Ana Sock and Book Distribution Day
5 Sunday Source@ 7pm	6	7 Pi Mu Epsilon Career Speaker@ 7pm	8 Beloved and Battalion Sex Talk@ 7pm ASCUI Q&A Forum@ TBA	9 Shout@ 9:30pm	10 ASCUI and Senate Elections Suitcase Bingo@7:30pm Lock in at Faith Lutheran Church Outdoor Rec Winter Retreat at Big Bear@ 4pm	11 Game of the Week: Baseball v. Cal Poly Pomona@ 10am Basketball v. APU@ 5:30pm&7:30pm Food Distribution in Santa Ana@ 10:30am Winter Retreat
12 Winter Retreat Sunday Source@ 7pm	13	14 Valentine's Day Game of the Week: Basketball v. Vanguard@ 5:30pm&7:30pm	15 Commuter \$1 Lunch	16 Shout@ 9:30pm	17 A Night for Valentines@ 7:30pm	18 A Night for Valentines@ 7:30pm
19 Brittany Amsler in Concert@ 7pm Sunday Source@ 7pm	20	21 Game of the Week: Women's Basketball Senior Night v. Pomona@ 5:30pm	22	23 Game of the Week: Men's Basketball Senior Night v. Cal State San Marcos@ 7:30pm Shout@ 9:30pm	24	25
26 Sunday Source@ 7pm	27 Spring Break	28 Spring Break	29 Spring Break			



Silent film intriguing, but misses opportunity

ZACHARY BORST
REVIEWS EDITOR

"The Artist" is a silent film that depicts the arrival of the talkies in Hollywood during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Jean Dujardin plays George Valentin, the heartthrob of the silent movie era. Valentin wears luxurious suits and is accompanied by his dog everywhere. At the opening of Valentin's most-recent silent success—"The Russian Affair"—Valentin comes on stage at the end of the film to the accolades of hundreds of exuberant audience members. He is a total ham. Valentin is king of the silent-movie world. Dujardin's portrayal of Valentin is theatrical, not only because of the silent movie format and its needs to portray emotion in over-the-top gestures, but because Valentin's personality overflows in his acting and in his personal life.

Valentin later meets Peppy Miller—played by Berenice Bejo—a Valentin fan and aspiring actress. George Valentin becomes charmed by Peppy Miller's spunk and tells her, "If you want to become an actress, you have to be different." He draws a beauty mark above Peppy's lip with eyeliner and gives her advice that will bring her later successes as the movie propels forward in time.

"The Artist" begins in 1929 and Valentin is its obvious superstar. After a slew of spy film successes (the movie after "The Russian Affair" is cleverly titled "The German Affair"), Valentin's producer Al Zimmer (John Goodman) introduces him to the new talkie technology. The audience silently watches Zimmer, Valentin and others watch a sound test. Zimmer and his associates clap, smoke cigars and celebrate the new technology. "If this technology is the future, you can have it!" Valentin laughs. Zimmer then cuts silent films and Valentin from Kinograph Studios and signs, you guessed it, Peppy Miller.

The most interesting action in this film is the dream sequence. Valentin puts his glass down and looks astonished when he hears the sound of crystal on wood. He then knocks several items down; all of them crash. Valentin goes outside and

his shoes scratch the pavement. Several girls walk down toward his trailer and giggle. Valentin's world has changed dramatically and he begins screaming—but no sound comes out. Dujardin plays Valentin's astonishment in this dream sequence without coming across as over-dramatic. Dujardin is limited to facial expressions and he successfully makes the terror of Valentin's dream palpable. In a dream-world with sound, Valentin is eerily subjected to voicelessness just as "The Artist" subjects its audience to silence.

"As an audience member, you put a lot of yourself in the storytelling because you recreate so many things with the sound," said Michel Hazanavicius, director of "The Artist." The storytelling may be audience-friendly—"The Artist" is captivating even as a silent film—but the story is all George Valentin's. In the new era of talkies, Valentin rails

against the new technology and his career spirals because of it. The film is silent to give Valentin a medium where he can show his angst towards changing technology in film. The silent film gives Valentin a voice.

The medium is captivating, but Valentin is a self-indulgent and egotistical protagonist. The plot is generic, and "The Artist" is overwhelmingly ironic and self-aware for a movie that attempts to sentimentalize the 1920s and old Hollywood culture. The film's silence recreates an atmosphere of storytelling and acting that is not present in contemporary cinema, however, and is worth seeing for that reason. I applaud "The Artist" for its foray and success into an old genre, but it would have been a greater success for me if it had used the vehicle of silent film to explore something new instead of recreating a tired plotline.



"The Artist" failed to develop a complex, unique plotline.

"World Go Boom" highlights apocalypticism

JUSTIN SOLIS
STAFF WRITER

Over break, I was one of the many mashup fanatics eagerly awaiting DJ Earworm's United State of Pop for 2011 and on Christmas Day, I joined a million others in experiencing the release of "World Go Boom." DJ Earworm (Jordan Roseman) annually combines the top 25 hits of the year into one ear-gasmic track and music video. Not only does he manage to cram two dozen songs of differing keys, tempos and styles into one (a feat of technical skill), but he produces a work worthy of artistic merit.

After his summer smash, "Party on the Floor," I wondered how Earworm could possibly build a different-sounding mashup and further the genre's innovation. In "World Go Boom," he focuses on lyric construction with a commentary on our generation's psyche. We're greeted with a song more densely mashed than his previous versions, using multiple artists to complete a single line of lyrics. Earworm has even gone so far as to manipulate the words that come from the artists' mouths. He turns Adam Levine's singing of "mooo-oo-oooves" into "booo-oo-ooom" by removing the "m" and

"ves" and splicing another artist's "b" and "m" to his voice.

Because the United State of Pop is a synthesis of the year's most popular songs, the work often highlights similar themes that resonate with the consuming population. Earworm uses these themes as inspiration for his mashup, noting that "2011 gave us songs of regret and anger, pride and perseverance, and lots of fire." Rihanna finds love in a hopeless place that's burning down in flames according to Bruno Mars. Pitbull and Ne-Yo muse that there might not be tomorrow, so Britney insists on dancing 'til the world ends. All contributed to "World Go Boom's" apocalyptic nature. More revealing (and perhaps more alarming) than our generation's anxiety concerning the world's possible demise is our fatalistic attitude towards it. Facing destruction, various artists stubbornly declare, "take it all," "let it happen," "easy come easy go," "me and all the other kids don't give a s**t." The futility of trying to save the world merits a hedonistic response to "kiss it all away" and to "never stop dancing."

Earworm does a great job balancing these feelings of anguish and perseverance in "World Go Boom." The first half of the song feels disjointed at times, featuring multiple repetitions: "Take, take it

all t-t-take the credit cards," "we will never be never be," "k-kiss, kiss it all, k-k-kiss," and "burn burn burn burn burn down in flames," like a person stammering in shock at the sudden apocalypse. The bulk of the first half uses Rihanna's "We Found Love" as the primary background further reinforcing the angst and despair.

The second half takes a markedly different tone, a triumphant defiance that matches perfectly with Lady Gaga's "Born This Way," which drives "World Go Boom" to its close. With the world crumbling around us, our generation shouts, "you can take everything but you can't take our soul." We have to accept "that sometimes it lasts, but sometimes the world goes boom." That doesn't mean we are wholly defeated, for "the show goes on every night and day" and "the dream goes on." All the while we unite against the common threat "standing side by side," not knowing why, but understanding that our only solace is in each other.

It'd be a mistake to think only our generation has felt this pattern of resilience in the face of despair—it's as old as another dance-crazed era, the 1920's. Echoing the sentiments of his generation, F. Scott Fitzgerald has Amory Blaine realize in *This Side of Paradise* that "there was no God in his heart, he knew; his ideas were still in riot; there was ever the pain of memory; the regret for his lost youth—yet the waters of disillusion had left a deposit on his soul, responsibility and a love of life, the faint stirring of old ambitions and unrealized dreams." Eighty years later, we find our generation wrestling with the same themes, determined to strive forward despite not understanding why the struggle is even worthwhile.

The United State of Pop 2011 "World Go Boom" is arguably the best artistic effort to capture and develop such a vivid photo of our generation's psyche—picture that with a Kodak. The mashup allows an artist to compile popular culture and distill it into a single highly-concentrated musical statement. No other art form has such potential for decoding our collective minds for us.

While many of our generation may be disillusioned by scores of domestic and global troubles, refusing to see a viable alternative to accepting the inevitable inferno that's coming December 21, 2012, I for one am eagerly we'll still be here come Christmas time—eagerly awaiting DJ Earworm's next United State of Pop.

Watch the music video and get the free download of "World Go Boom" at djarworm.com.

Core book Review: *The Spirit of the Laws*



STEPHANIE PETERS
STAFF WRITER

In the coming weeks, the "America and the World" Core history classes will be studying the Enlightenment. While most people are familiar enough with the "Age of Reason" to recall its major philosophical influence on the establishment of our nation, the Core seeks to replace this abridged knowledge with a deeper understanding of it. In order to do this, the students will read works by John Locke, Jonathan Swift and Baron de Montesquieu. In the interest of space, I will be reviewing the latter.

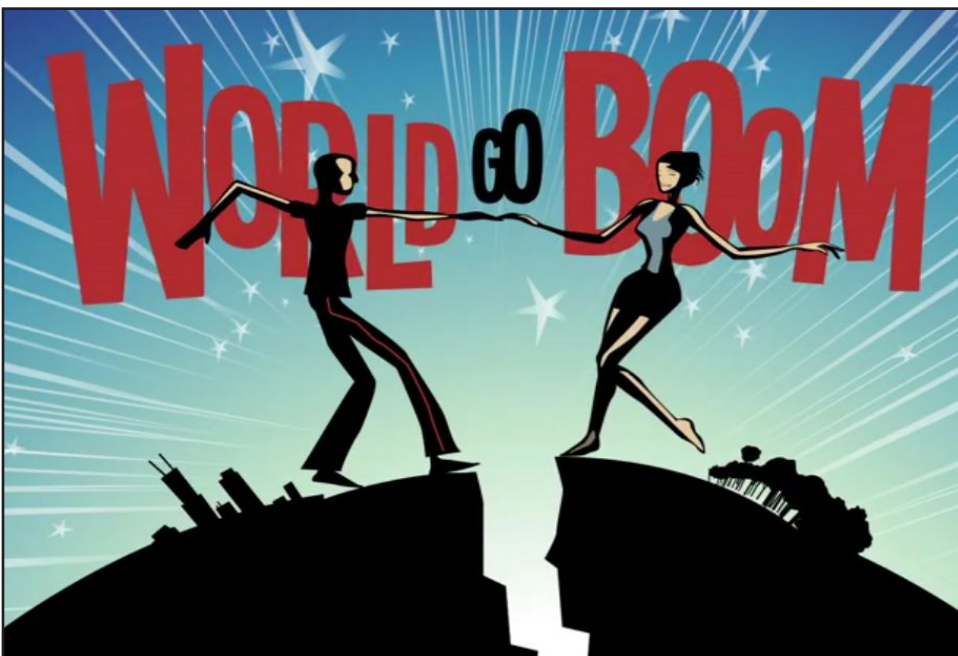
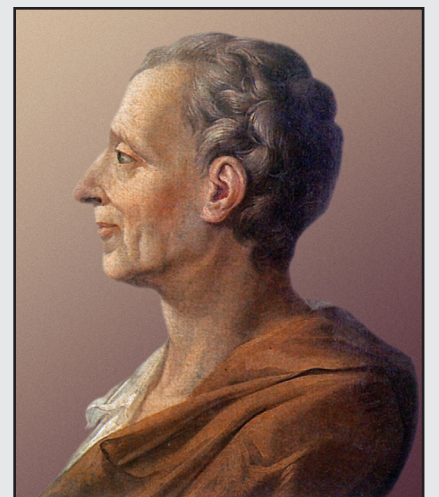
In "The Spirit of the Laws," published in 1748, Charles de Montesquieu addresses the nature of laws. Rather than blindly accept the traditional understanding of what laws are, like Francis Bacon and Rene Descartes before him, Montesquieu razes the previously held notions of his time and replaces them with new ideas. The Core will focus specifically on what he writes of laws in general, laws regarding liberty and the constitution and laws in relation to religion. The general laws that Montesquieu refers to are those laws in nature which preside over man and beasts. From this natural law, man—having the "faculty of knowledge"—develops laws "arising from the difference of sexes," then "from the desire of living in society." Positive laws are created from within a society, in which he emphasizes, "Law in general is human reason, inasmuch as it governs all the inhabitants of the earth."

Montesquieu is careful to explain the relationship between laws and liberty; he warns that the term "liberty" is dangerously misinterpreted. Montesquieu asserts that "liberty is a right of doing whatever the laws permit." If liberty is to be preserved there can be no abuse of power, he argues that to prevent such abuse "it is necessary from the very nature of things that power should be a check to power."

The executive, legislative and judicial branches of the American government are a living example of the sort of "check to power" Montesquieu praised (initially in the English constitution). Of these executive, legislative and judicial powers, he writes: "These three should naturally form a state of repose or inaction. But as there is a necessity for movement in the course of human affairs, they are forced to move, but still in concert."

Lastly, on laws and religion Montesquieu states: "It is necessary that the laws require from the several religions, not only that they shall not embroil the state, but that they shall not raise disturbances among themselves." Further, "A citizen does not fulfill the laws by not disturbing the government; it is requisite that he should not trouble any citizen whomsoever."

It is my hope that the information I have provided in some way impressed upon you the significance of the ideas that were born of the Enlightenment. But, in the words of Montesquieu, "we must not always exhaust a subject, so as to leave no work at all for the reader. My business is not to make people read, but to make them think."



"World Go Boom" is available for free download at djarworm.com